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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

- 25X1 1. Soviet Marshal Konev arrived secretly in Prague at the beginning of September, accompanied by two other Soviet officers. Soon after he left for Příbram and Březové Hory with Thor and Čepička, where he attended firing excercises in the Brdy region. Units of Soviet artillery took part in these exercises, during which new guns of models 60 and 75 were tested.
2. Konev's visit is doubtless behind the rumor that he is to be appointed head of the Czechoslovak Army. A proposition of this nature was made about a year ago, but Čepička convinced Gottwald that the time for such a development had not yet arrived. The Czech General Staff does not believe that so important a development will take place soon. The opinion is rather that if the general agreement with West Germany is ratified, a general staff, called "defenders of peace", will be set up, including all the satellite states, and that Konev will be the head of it.
3. It is possible that a Soviet officer would be placed at the head of the Czech Army at the same time, but there is no clue to his name as yet. Officers of the Czech General Staff are of the opinion that Konev is too important in Soviet general strategy to be placed at the head of the Czech Army alone. His place would rather be as Ridgway's opposite number in Eastern Europe.

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